



OUR CHANGING ISLAND

A History of the Census in Guam

Grades 5-12

Skills and Objectives:

- Students will learn about the census, why it is important, and how it is beneficial to the residents of Guam.

Suggested Groupings:

Small groups, individuals

Getting Started:

Ask students to guess the answers to the following questions. Write some of their answers on the board, then give them the correct answers.

1. What is the population of Guam? (133,152, based on 1990 census)
 2. Are there more males or females in Guam? (males — 70,945; females — 62,207, based on 1990 census)
 3. What is the median age of the population in Guam? (25, based on 1990 census)
 4. What was the population of Guam in 1901, three years after it became part of the U.S.? (9,676)
- Tell students that we can know the answers to these questions through data collected by the census. The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a complete count of all the people living in Guam every 10 years. The information collected by the census includes the population of our island, as well as people's ages, education, occupations, etc.
- Explain to students that the first census was taken in 1710 when the island was still a possession of Spain. The population count at that time was 3,614. From 1710 through 1897, the government of Spain conducted 20 additional censuses. Spain ceded Guam to the United States in 1898 as a result of the Spanish-American War. In 1901 and 1910 the naval governor took the census in Guam, and since 1920 Guam has been included in every decennial census.

Using the Activity Worksheets:

- Photocopy and distribute the Activity Worksheet (page 10) and maps (pages 9 and 28), along with "Census at a Glance" (page 8).

Chalkboard Definitions

census: a count of a population in a given area.

confidential: private or secret.

decennial: occurring every 10 years.

data: factual information.

district: a geographic unit of measurement used by the Census Bureau.

- Review "Census at a Glance" (page 8) and discuss with students why the census is so important.

- Explain that they will be working in groups of four or fewer to solve the word puzzle on page 10.

Wrapping Up:

- Review the students' answers to the questions on page 10 and discuss them. Use these answers to initiate a discussion about population trends in Guam and how they influence the island's future.

Extension Activity:

Ask students to write their own questions based on the maps (pages 9 and 28) and/or the population table (page 10). Then have them exchange questions with their classmates and research the answers. Grades 9-12: Have students review the history of their district. Ask: **When was their district established? Are its boundaries the same today as when it was established? What factors have affected the population growth of their district?** To answer these questions, students will need to obtain census information for Guam and their district. Have them start with a visit to their local or school library.

Answers:

Page 10: 1. Umatac 2. Mongmong-Toto-Maite 3. Asan 4. Cocos Island 5. Sumay 6. Sinajana 7. Census 8. The substantial U.S. military presence on the island during World War II led to a significant increase in the population of Guam. 9. A surge in the local economy during the 1980s, fueled in large part by the development of a robust tourist industry, led to an increase in immigration, mostly from Asia.



Name: _____

Census at a Glance

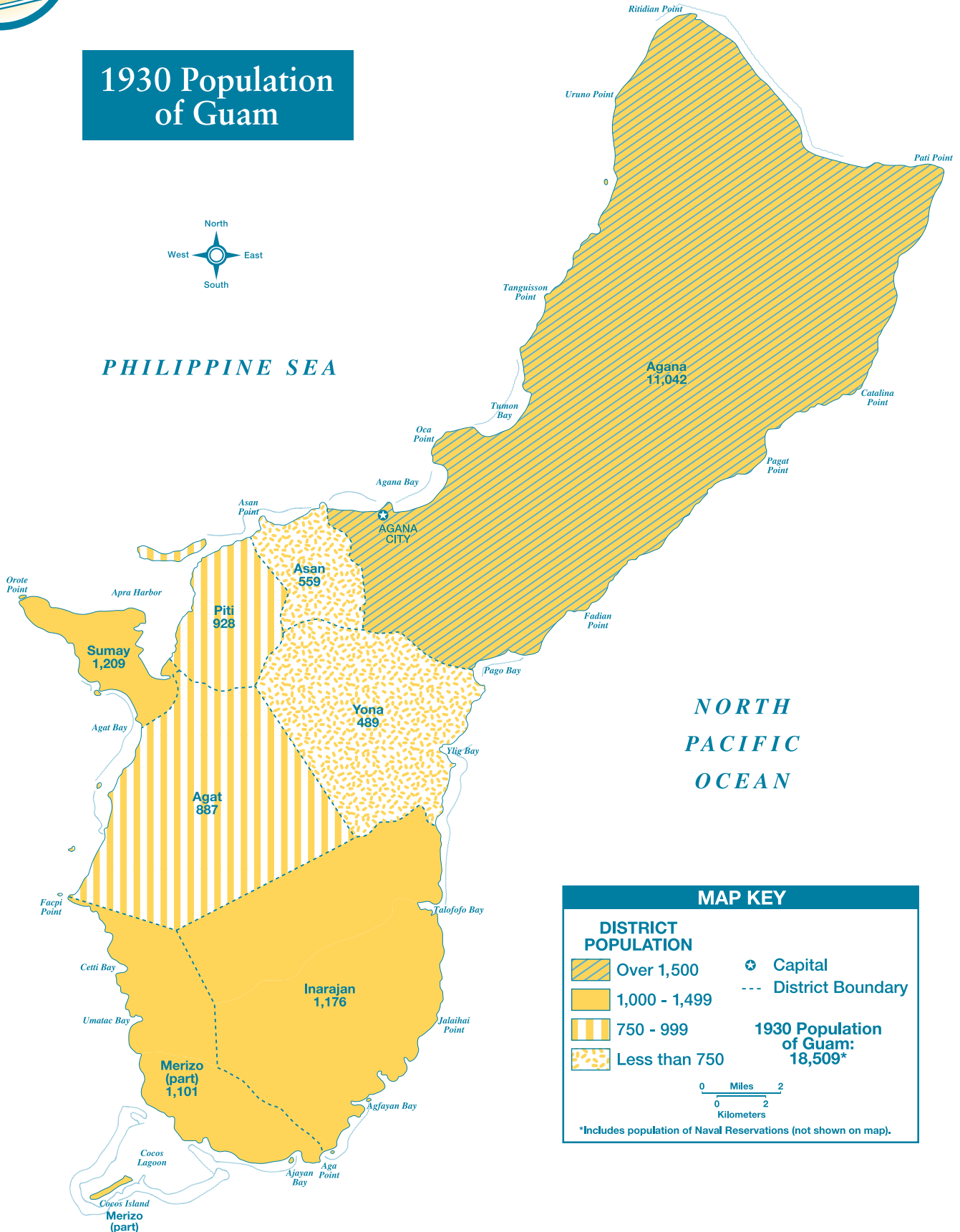
- The U.S. Census is mandated by Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, which requires an enumeration of the population of the United States every 10 years.
- Title 13 of the United States Code, which sets out the basic laws under which we conduct a census, specifies that Guam shall be included in the decennial census.
- On March 27, 2000, the U.S. Postal Service will deliver questionnaires called Advance Census Reports (ACRs) to every household in Guam. ACRs ask for information about every person living in every household. A few days before the ACR arrives, each household will receive an advance letter alerting them to its delivery. Each household will be asked to complete the questionnaire and hold it until a census worker picks it up on or soon after March 31, 2000. If the ACR is not complete when the census worker arrives, then he or she will help complete it by conducting a personal interview.
- All individual information collected for the census is confidential. Census workers can be fined and/or jailed for releasing this information, and the Census Bureau itself is forbidden by law from sharing such information with other government agencies.
- The first census of the United States was taken in 1790. The first U.S. decennial census in Guam was taken in 1920. Guam became a part of the United States in 1898 as a result of the Spanish-American War. Between 1898 and 1920 two censuses were conducted by the naval governor.
- In addition to taking a complete count of the population, the U.S. Census Bureau also collects information about housing, age, marital status, education, and economic indicators.
- The census is important because the information obtained from the form helps federal and local governments determine where new roads, parks, schools, hospitals, and other services are needed. A new school and library, for example, could be built in your neighborhood based on data indicating a large increase in the number of school-age children living there.
- The U.S. Census Bureau plans long in advance for every census. While conducting a census, the Census Bureau is already planning for the next census, even though it is 10 years away.
- Census day is April 1, 2000: All people living in the U.S. and its territories on this day are included in the official count.



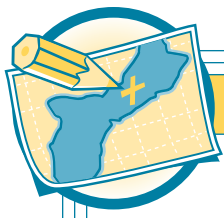
1930 Population of Guam



PHILIPPINE SEA



All information on this map is based on 1930 Census data.



Name: _____

A History of the Census in **Guam**

To answer the following questions and solve the word puzzle, you'll need to compare the 1930 and 1990 population maps of Guam.

1. The district with the smallest population in 1990 was: _____○
2. You won't find this district on the 1930 map of Guam:
_____ - _____ - _____○
3. This municipality's population has increased almost fourfold since 1930: _____○
4. Which island is part of Merizo? _____○ _____
5. Its own municipality in 1930, this is now part of Santa Rita: _____○ _____
6. This landlocked district was a barrio of Agana in 1930: _____○ _____
7. What do the circled letters spell? _____

POPULATION HISTORY OF GUAM, 1710-1990

1710	3,614	1871	6,270	1930	18,509
1793	3,584	1886	8,144	1940	22,290
1800	4,060	1891	8,369	1950	59,498
1816	5,389	1897	8,698	1960	67,044
1825	5,901	1901	9,676	1970	84,996
1830	6,490	1910	11,806	1980	105,979
1849	7,940	1920	13,275	1990	133,152

NOTE: The Spanish government took the censuses in Guam prior to 1901. The naval governor took the censuses in 1901 and 1910. Guam has been part of the U.S. decennial census since 1920.

The table above shows the history of population growth for Guam since 1710, which reflects important changes and events that have taken place on our island. Using your knowledge of the history of Guam, try to answer the following questions. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

8. Between 1940 and 1950 the population of Guam more than doubled. What do you think was responsible for this unprecedented growth?
9. What factors partially account for Guam's substantial increase in population between 1980 and 1990?